

## Message Text

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45

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 IO-10 DPW-01 ( ISO ) W

----- 060818

O 141105Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3665

INFO COMUSSAG NKP THAILAND IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU IMMEDIATE

COMIPAC HONOLULU IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 2907

C O R R E C T E D COPY (TEXT)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS VS

SUBJECT: MILITARY SITUATION IN MR3

FOLLOWING TEL FROM BIEN HOA SENT ACTION AMEMBASSY SAIGON INFO  
USDAO SAIGON 14 MARCH BEING REPEATED TO YOU

QUOTE: BIEN HOA 159

REF: BIEN HOA 156

1. THIS MESSAGE IS BASED ON CONVERSATION WITH MR3 CHIEF OF  
STAFF, COL MINH, AT 1000 HOURS, MAR 14. THE NVA/VC TOOK  
TWO MORE OUTPOSTS WEST OF THE VAM CO DONG RIVER OVERNIGHT BUT  
PROSPECTS WERE REPORTED GOOD FOR REOPENING ROUTE 22 BY NOON  
MAR 14. THERE ARE INTELLIGENCE INDICATIONS THAT ATTACK IS  
IMMINENT ON ROUTE 20 TO DALAT IN LONG KHANH PROVINCE, PROBABLY  
BY THE 209TH NVA REGT OF THE 7TH DIV.

2. GVN FORCES IN MR3 EXPERIENCED REVERSES OVERNIGHT MAR 13-14  
WHEN RF TROOPS WERE FORCED OUT OF THEIR OUTPOSTS AT AN THANH  
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ON ROUTE 1 AT THE CAMBODIAN BORDER (XT3025) AND BEN CAU (XT

2331) UNDER NEW TANK-SUPPORTED GROUND ASSAULTS. ON ROUTE 1 WEST OF GO DAU HA, NVA/VC CONTROL THE ROAD FROM THE CAMBODIAN BORDER TO THE HAMLET AT ABOUT XT3525 WHERE ONE BATTALION OF THE 48TH GVN REGT IS IN A BLOCKING POSITION CONTROLLING A PART OF THE HAMLET. RF CONTINUED TO HOLD BUT ARE UNDER VERY HEAVY PRESSURE AT PHUOC CHI OUTPOST VICINITY XT3419. UNCONFIRMED INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE E-6 REGT, 5TH NVA DIV, IS ATTACKING ON ROUTE 1 AND SOUTH WHILE THE 205TH NVA REGT IS ATTACKING AT BEN CAU. AT BOTH THE BEN CAU AND AN THANH OUTPOSTS RF TROOPS WITHDREW UNDER INTENSE PRESSURE. WITH REPORTS THAT NVA/VC TROOPS HAVE BEEN SPOTTED AT SEVERAL PLACES JUST WEST OF THE VAM CO DONG RIVER NORTHWEST OF GO DAU HA. THE EVIDENCE SEEMS CLEAR THAT NVA/VC STRATEGY IS TO PUT PRESSURE ON ROUTE 22 TO TAY NINH FROM THE SOUTH AS WELL AS THE NORTH.

3. MORE ENCOURAGING WAS THE REPORT SENT BY THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE 46TH REGT ON THE EARLY MORNING OF MAR 14 THAT TOUTE 22 WOULD BE CLEARED AND OPEN FOR TRAFFIC WITHIN TWO HOURS. MR3 WAS HOPEFUL THAT BY NOON THE ROAD WOULD BE CLEAR AND THAT TRAFFIC COULD FLOW.

4. MINH TOLD ME THAT THERE WERE OVERNIGHT INTELLIGENCE INDICATIONS THAT AN NVA/VC ATTACK IN LONG KHANH PROVINCE TO CUT AND DOMINATE ROUTE 20 TO DALET WAS IMMINENT. THE ASSUMPTION IS THAT THE ATTACK WILL BE BY THE 209TH NVA REGT COMBINING WITH LOCAL FORCES. MINH FELT THERE WAS A GOOD CHANCE THAT THE TWO REGTS OF THE 18TH ARVN DIV DEPLOYED IN LONG KHANH AND BINH TUY COULD KEEP THE SITUATION IN THOSE TWO PROVINCES FROM BECOMING TOO DANGEROUS. HE POINTED OUT THAT ONE BATTALION OF THE 43RD REGT IS IN HOAI DUC AND THAT ANOTHER IS DEPLOYED JUST NORTH OF ROUTE 20 AROUND YT4233 LEAVING THE 52ND REGT AND ONE BATTALION OF THE 43RD IN RESERVE FOR DEPLOYMENT WHEN EXPECTED ATTACKS IN THAT REGION MATERIALIZE. NVA/VC FORCES ECPETED TO BE ENGAGED IN LONG KHANH AND BINH TUY ARE, IN ADDITION TO THE 209TH, THE 33RD AND THE 274TH REGTS AND POSSIBLY THE 116TH SAPPER BN.

5. MINH REMAINS CONCERNED OVER THE LACK OF ANY ARVN FORCES IN EASTERN BINH DUONG PROVINCE, HAVING IN MIND THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE 165TH REGT, 7TH NVA DIV, MAY BE IN THE AREA SOUTHEAST OF PHU GIAO AND FREE TO STRIKE SOUTHWESTWARD TOWARD BIEN HOA AND

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SAIGON IF ARVN FORCES ARE PINNED DOWN ELSEWHERE.

6. OUR TAY NINH PROV REP REPORTS THAT ABOUT HALF OF THE POPULATION OF GO DAU HA APPEARS TO HAVE LEFT THE CITY, THAT THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE ARE PREPARED TO LEAVE TAY NINH FOR SAIGON IF AND WHEN ROUTE 22 IS OPEN, AND THAT THE ROAD BETWEEN GO DAU HA AND SAIGON IS FILLED WITH BUSES HEAVILY LOADED WITH PEOPLE STREAMING TOWARD SAIGON. PETERS

UNQUOTE  
LEHMANN

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